

**SECRET**

~~6.3~~  
6.3

20 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

SUBJECT: Project BOFIND, EE-10.1

REFERENCE: [ ] (IN 2011/6)

1. The reference cable from [ ] which was concurred to by the BOFIND Field Chief and the [ ] advances certain facts to substantiate the contention that the above project, involving the use in black broadcasts to Albania of a medium-wave transmitter installed aboard the vessel JUANITA should be abandoned.

2. Extensive field tests organized and carried out by field Communications personnel and later conducted under the direction of [ ] and [ ] of the Washington Communications staff, yielded results which contradicted those obtained during the initial communications tests conducted with the vessel in American waters and have led responsible personnel in the field to the conclusion that the medium-wave broadcasting equipment aboard the BOFIND covert vessel will not dependably deliver a useful signal at distances exceeding 65 miles. Among the factors reported by the field to be responsible for this poor performance are the high noise level locally, limitations of the antenna system and channel interference. Doubts have been expressed by the field as to the suitability of the transmitting equipment for the particular mission in question. These doubts are based on the fact that the performance obtained in the field is so inferior to the excellent results anticipated in the light of the thorough preliminary studies made for this project and the successful tests of the equipment prior to the departure of the vessel for its area of operation last winter. It will be recalled that the vessel itself was selected by specialists from this organization who made an extensive survey of available boats on the Atlantic Coast, and who gave close attention to the question of equipment selection and antenna design.

3. In view of the careful preliminary planning and the successful initial tests, coupled with the very considerable funds already expended on this project, the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reference cable come as a great disappointment and make it essential that the desirability of terminating

the project be

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

- 2 -

the project be thoroughly studied without delay and a decision be reached promptly. In order to permit this Division to make a sensible decision on the matter, your recommendations and comments regarding the feasibility and desirability of conducting further tests and of making further alterations to the antenna and other elements of the apparatus are requested. You will note that the field is obviously discouraged with the results obtained and that the Communications personnel in the field concur with the recommendations contained in the reference cable.

4. Should you recommend against the further use of the medium-wave transmitting installation in the vessel, it would be appreciated if you would comment on the feasibility of using this equipment from [ ] with the object of reaching the target area, namely Albania.

5. Two memoranda dated 26 May 1950 and 7 June 1951 respectively are attached as background information relating to this case.

[ Chief, RE ]

Attachments: 2

EE-1 [ ]/cls

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - addressee

EE - 1

SD/RE - 2

EE-1 - 2

**SECRET**

SECRET

C  
O  
P  
Y

7 June 1951

Asst. Director for Policy Coordination  
THRU : Chief, EE/OPC  
Chief, Communications Division

Technical Fitness of BOFIEND Installation

1. The many technical considerations related to the radio broadcasting facilities installed on BOFIEND were carefully studied by engineers of the Communications Division at the time the project was proposed. As then evaluated, the project was technically feasible providing broadcasts on medium frequencies were confined to darkness hours. An opportunity to judge the accuracy of this prediction was afforded during the vessel's shake-down last December. The measured field-strength over a 400 mile path confirmed the calculated values. By coincidence, the shake-down tests were made in near gale conditions off Cape Hatteras with heavy seas running, which did not reduce the effectiveness of the broadcasts.

2. A completely new study of the radio propagation factors applicable to BOFIEND was recently made by different engineers in view of disturbing cables from the field. These computations again agree with the earlier ones. The results of their study and excerpts from the radio log made during the shake-down cruise are attached for your information.

3. On the basis of the careful studies made by competent engineers, along with the confirming test transmissions, it can be seen that there are no technical radio factors which might limit the effectiveness of BOFIEND project as originally planned.

E J

HWK:den

cc: PO/GM/OPC  
COMOPS

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

accommodations will be inadequate and a larger vessel will be required.

7. The Captain of the IRMAY and the present crew are available for employment. They appear to be efficient and experienced and have, in the past, accompanied several scientific expeditions to the Caribbean and South American waters. Annex IV is a list of the crew and their qualifications.

8. The undersigned recommend the procurement of the IRMAY.

Submitted by:

MSO, Staff II

Project Engineer, Commo.

Forwarded by:

OPS/M, Staff I

4 Incl

- Annex I - Comparative data on BARI and IRMAY
- Annex II - Description of IRMAY
- Annex III - Description of SERVA LE BARI
- Annex IV - List of IRMAY crew & their qualifications

Distribution:

- 1 - Chief, Area I, Foreign Branch E ( )
- 2 - OPS-M/S-II Working file on Project BOFIEND
- 3 - Chief, Foreign Branch E, OPC ( )
- 4 & 5 - OPC Registry

S-II/ACK

SECRET